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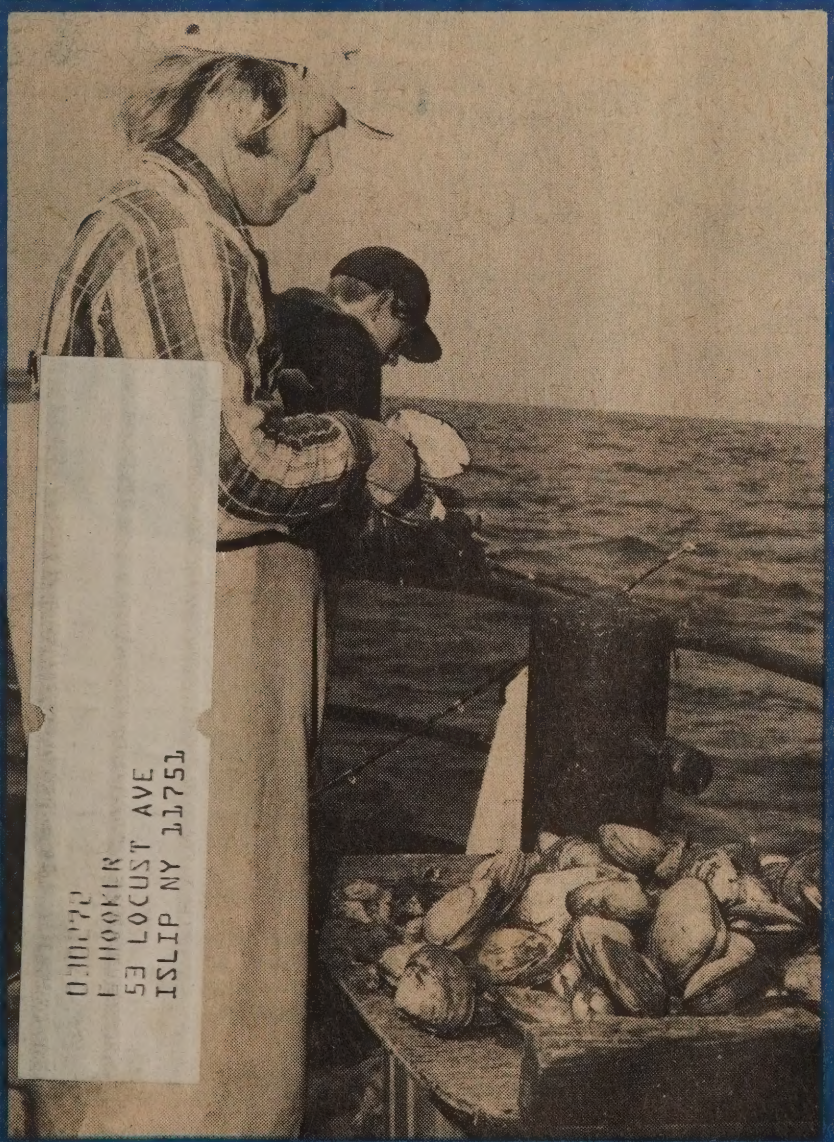
The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

DECEMBER 2nd, 1976, ISSUE No. 46



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 11, No 46 DECEMBER 2nd, 1976

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The mate on an open boat shucks skimmer clams to be used as bait for cod. See Milt Rosko's article, "Winter Party Boating" on page 12.

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CHUM LINES

ABOUT THE COVER...

As long time subscribers to your super paper we feel it incumbent upon us to thank you and the Johnson Div. of O.M.C. for the cover on your latest edition.

Needless to say at this time of year we can only look back on "the things we did last summer." Your cover photo will hold us over until spring and inspire us on to bigger and better things. Thanks again. **Len Cohen, Mac Switkes, Fred Bieber, Stan Sterling.**

NOT WHITE PERCH...

I've been entertained and informed by you through the years. You folks have consistently been knowledgeable and imaginative. However...I feel that at this point you're trying much too hard.

What prompts this admonishment is your Nov. 18th cover. While they may be known for their fantastic gill structures, I can assure you that those two beauties are not white perch.

It's ok guys winter's coming, you can relax. **Don Shremshock.**

WANTS EQUAL TIME...

In regards to your November 18th, 1976 issue cover, I would like to request equal time for all the wives of fishermen and the women who love to fish. Let us have two equally appealing male models in bikinis with equally alluring poses, on some future cover.

The male body is just as beautiful in its own respect. I for one might be inclined to spend my hard-earned dollar on items promoted by some rugged lumber-jack type than some buxom beauty. **Jane Cooperstein**

WANTS ORIGINAL...

Please send me a copy of your cover picture of 11-18-76. I am a 3 year subscriber to Long Island Fisherman and enjoy looking at the picture as well as reading your fine articles. **Frank Cora, Lk. Ronkonkoma.**

CLUB NEWS

MECLI MEETING NOTICE

An open public meeting of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island (MECLI) will be held Thursday, Dec. 2nd at 8:00 P.M. at the Bowery Savings Bank, 5100 Sunrise Highway, Massapequa, L.I. (2nd floot meeting room—use rear entrance. Special program—Film on Marine Environment. For more info call George H. Wilde at 516-SU 5-3139 or Vincent J. Franco at 516-221-1434.

GROTON DERBY RESULTS

The Town of Groton's First Annual Bluefish and Striped Bass Derby came to a successful conclusion with the presentation of the grand prizes on Monday eve, by Town of Groton Mayor Betty Chapman.

Ronald Rudker, Jr., of Groton who caught a 53 lb. striped bass and Mark Mitsko of Groton who caught an 18 lb. 15 oz. bluefish were presented 23 channel mobile transeivers.

Gary Morton, New London and Charles Zander, Mystic received electric grass shears for the largest bass caught during the month of October from a private boat. Their catches were tied at 44 pounds ½ ounce.

The ten week contest had 35 individual winners who collected $500 in prizes. Twenty-five local businesses contributed over $1,000 towards the weekly, monthly and grand prizes as well as to underwrite the administrative expenses for establishing the Derby for the first time.

The Planning Committee for the Derby included Captain and Mrs. George Glas, Schania Zelvin, Mr. and Mrs. Rod Sears, Captain Greg Dubrule, and Town of Groton Recreation Director R. Peter Ledger.

Pass It On...

L-R. Henry Pellechia, Bob Smart, Congressman Mario Biaggi and Henry Carreiro display the plaque awarded to Biaggi at a recent Striped Bass Fund Conference sponsored by the Empire Striper Association.

STRIPED BASS FUND

Approximately 200 striped bss fishermen turned out for the Metropolitan Striped Bass Conference hosted last Tuesday night by the Empire Striper Association in College Point, N.Y.

Among the spearkers was Congressman Mario Biaggi who called for a conciliation between industry and sportsfishermen for a cleaner, healthier environment which would lead to better fishing opportunities and increased fish populations. Biaggi cited examples of a new willingness and a greater desire on the part of electric utilities and industrial interests to seek a conscientious solution to enviornmental problems.

According to Biaggi, the efforts of organized groups like the Striped Bass Fund were responsible in part for the gains made in the last few years for a new awareness of the effects of chemical pollutants such as PCB's and KEPONE.

Other spearkers included Pete Barrett with a slide show on the striped bass, Henry Carreiro of the Striped Bass Fund, Ron Onorato on boat fishing methods for stripers and Dr. William Muller with a presentation on surf fishing.

The conference is the first in a series of winter programs by the Striped Bass Fund, hosted by local activist striped bass fishing clubs.

For more information on the Striped Bass Fund, write to executive director Henry Carreiro, Martha's Vineyard, Box 656, Oak Bluffs, Mass., 02557 or call him at 617-693-1643.

Sinker Bouncing

Don't Put Your Tackle Away Yet

with Matt Ahern

Now that approaching winter has given unmistakeable signs of bringing down the curtain on most fishing activities, many fishermen have already resigned themselves to the inevitable and have put away their tackle, content to await next spring's balmy temperatures.

But if you're like me, you know that good fishing is still available to the fisherman willing to put up with a few discomforts. In fact, many anglers find this late fall fishing can often be the best of the year.

I have a fanatical fishing buddy who makes it a point to reserve part of his annual vacation for early December, just so he can get out there and enjoy the good fishing this time of year often affords. He spreads his time between skiff fishing for flounders in the bays and prowling the offshore grounds in search of cod, blacks and those always willing biters: the ling and whiting. Seldom is he disappointed.

A nice thing about sinker bouncing now is that not only is fishing apt to be very good, weather permitting, but when bay fishing the fisherman often has large stretches of water to himself.

I recall one mild December day last fall when it seemed I and my fishing buddy had the whole of Shinnecock Bay to ourselves. We fished the "Basket" area and the first hour of fishing gave us all the flounders we could possibly want, and we spent the rest of the morning returning dozens of others. Some of those returns were really big flounders, flounders that would have caused a good deal of comment earlier in the season.

The same applies to offshore fishing. Party boats are seldom crowded now, even when good catches are highly publicized. This is the time of year when the smart fisherman takes advantage and gets in on the action.

Winter cod are apt to be farther offshore than when they first arrived a month or so ago. You'll find the average fish a bit larger, too. Actually, more large cod are caught off Long Island's south shore and the New Jersey Coast during the first two weeks of December than at any time during the run.

This is when clam-baited hooks should be allowed to lie quietly. This definitely is not the time to jig that bait if you want your share of the fish. You'll also find that as November melts into December, cod become more available around the deeper, offshore wrecks. Private craft should look for them, too, over such rocky bottom as the Cholera Banks, Southeast Grounds, Angler Banks, 17 Fathom Bank, and the rocky ledges of offshore Sea Bright.

Blackfish are also found on these grounds, but at this time of year it's a hit or miss proposition. Some days these fish will gather in large numbers on local wrecks, where they greedily accept green crab and China-back fiddlers. These are usually big fish which are probably stopping off on their way to deeper, offshore grounds, no doubt preparing to duck some of winter's coming chill. But don't count too much on their availability. My records go back over forty years and they show only isolated instances of good blackfishing in December. Unless you are lucky enough to just hit it right, you will get more action with cod, ling and whiting.

More ling and whiting are caught over mud and gravel bottom at this time of year than around wrecks and over rocky ledges. A good place to try is the Ambrose Tower grounds, particularly for whiting. (Cod haunt these grounds, too, especially to the south on the Subway Grounds.)

Drifting around the Tower is more successful than lying at anchor, but if wind or tidal currents are too strong, you can still anchor and get fish by using a heavy bank sinker. You'll find these fish more firm of flesh than in springtime, but you should still clean them as soon as possible, especially ling.

Skimmer clams will take these fish, of course, although any available blacks will show a decided preference for crab bait. For cod it's best to use a half of a whole skimmer, or a third of a large one.

Many fishermen make the mistake of using whole skimmers and then wonder why hooks and leaders twist and snarl about their line in the strong currents usually found when winter codfishing. Use properly prepared bait and you'll definitely increase your chances of scoring with "old whiskers." If you cut your own bait, be sure to slice it so part of the belly remains. This is what cod relish.

The same bait will take ling and whiting, of course, but better results are obtained by using slightly narrower slices. If skimmers are unavailable, don't despair. Frozen squid will work as well. Just cut it into inch wide, three inch strips and run the hook through twice, allowing some to trail in the current.

Many fishermen fillet their first whiting and then cut it into the same size slices as squid. This bait will stay on the hook longer, often outfishing the skimmer or squid.

You'll find hooking ling and whiting is easy, especially if a jigging method is used. When this is done, they hook themselves, and you'll find many double-headers coming up—especially with whiting. When this happens, the temptation to keep more than needed is strong. Remember, though, the days of super-abundance is fast coming to a close—thanks to the foreign fleet off our shores. Take what you want, but use what you take should be the watchword of all true sportsmen.

There's still plenty of fish out there for the die-hard fisherman. Pick out a mild, windless day if you possibly can and get aboard a party boat, or make up a charter. Leave it to the skipper to find fish for you, which he most certainly will. If you're lucky enough to know a buddy owning a seaworthy boat, you owe it to yourselves to give this late fall fishing a try.

Dress warmly and go have yourself a ball. There isn't too much time left weatherwise, but the time is now and you should take advantage of it.

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CONSERVATION COMMENTS *by Al Ristori*

While it won't be known until early December whether the United States will remain in the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), the New England and Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Councils continue to review the preliminary management plans prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service. As noted in previous columns, continued U.S. participation in ICNAF will effectively prevent council control of the mid-Atlantic and New England offshore fisheries.

The mackerel quota recommended in the management plan has proved to be very controversial. Statistics provided in the plan by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) indicate a 96 percent decrease in mackerel abundance since the foreign fleets started working on them. Under these circumstances it appears ludicrous to talk in terms of a "surplus" for the foreign fleets. Indeed, at this stage it's risky enough to simply allow domestic fishermen to take the relatively few metric tons they have harvested during the past few years.

Mackerel catches over the years have fluctuated widely. In the days of sail power, the mackerel was one of our most important good fish. The catch reached its peak in 1884, when 81,300 tons were landed. In contrast, the 1975 domestic commercial catch was about 1,100 tons! That constituted far less than 1 percent of what the foreign fleets were taking in our waters. The figures available to us for the sportfishing catch are unreliable, but do indicate that the sportfishery is of great importance. During the period of mackerel abundance in 1970, the sport catch was estimated at 32,100 tons. Even in relatively poor 1974 (the last year for which we have sportfishing estimates) the sportfishing landings were 7,600 tons—about seven times the domestic commercial catch. Just how many millions of dollars this fishery is worth is pure conjecture at this time. However, if the 1974 catch was sold at the prevailing ex-vessel price of 17.6 cents per pound, it would have been worth about $3,000,000. Of course, that represents only a small proportion of the fishery's true value. Hundreds of party boats are dependent on the spring run of mackerel for a living, and no true value can be placed on the recreational opportunities made available to the hundreds of thousands who enjoy mackerel fishing.

While our scientists originally were in favor of a quota approaching zero, the demands of foreign countries in ICNAF for large quotas has resulted in the compromise 55,000 metric ton proposal. The current plan calls for a large portion of that to come from a directed mackerel fishery in the Hudson Canyon area during January. In view of the depleted state of mackerel stocks, I feel that every effort should be made to prevent any directed foreign fishery for the species. Our scientists concede that a 55,000 metric ton catch will simply maintain the population, rather than allowing for improvement. Between sport and commercial catches, we can expect the domestic catch to fall between five and ten tons; while the Canadians, working on the same stocks in their own waters, will probably land about 15 tons. Beyond that there is the substantial by-catch of mackerel that can be expected in the course of foreign hake and squid fisheries. The combination of all these factors could well push the total catch close to the 55,000 ton "no growth" figure even without a directed foreign fishery.

At its last meeting, the New England Council voted against any directed foreign mackerel fishery. The Mid-Atlantic Council followed up at its November 18-19 meeting in Arlington, Va. with a similar resolution. Unfortunately, until the ICNAF situation is cleared up, these actions serve as nothing more than a recommendation to our ICNAF negotiators. If we remain in ICNAF, foreign scientists could push the quota even higher. The U.S. has no veto and, by remaining in this treaty organization, must abide by the majority decisions. Since almost all the countries involved are exploiters, with the U.S. and Canada the exploited, it's little wonder that the fisheries have been devastated. Indeed, there is no better example of natural resource mismanagement and the triumph of greed over conservation than ICNAF.

A similar situation exists with regard to herring. Stocks of that species have also been severely depleted, and yet a small "surplus" quota is proposed. Most of this is expected to be taken as incidental catch (much of it in the proposed directed fishery for mackerel), but a short season is also anticipated on Georges Bank in September. While herring aren't of much interest to sportsmen in our area, they are (like mackerel) an extremely important forage fish for larger species (tuna, cod, pollack, striped bass, bluefish, etc.) and any depletion of that species is sure to be felt throughout the chain of life in the sea. Both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils have recommended that no foreign directed fishery for herring be allowed.

Though I was happy with the Mid-Atlantic Councils actions in regard to the foreign fisheries on mackerel and herring, I also suffered some setbacks at the last meeting. My proposal that allowable foreign fisheries be permitted, a by-catch of no more than 2 percent mackerel became embroiled in controversy and wasn't acted upon at this meeting. As noted in preceding paragraphs, if by-catches aren't restricted, any attempts to restore mackerel and herring populations may be circumvented by the same greedy nations that have virtually destroyed the fisheries. It was only two years ago that the Russians took twice their mackerel quota, and our "friends" from West Germany greatly exceeded their herring quota this year. Not to be outdone, the East Germans also appear to have taken a little herring "bonus"!

Another problem arose when a list of species important to the Mid-Atlantic Council was drawn up. While most of the species involved didn't represent any problem, a great controversy developed over my attempt to include the bluefish. The councils are charged with responsibility for all species which are found primarily beyond the three mile state jurisdiction. Since most of the species we deal with cross that boundary at some time during the year, controversy is bound to develop as to whether the councils or the states have jurisdiction. The list of species of primary interest to the Council was developed from a commercial landing sheet that broke down the catch between the three mile zone and offshore. Unfortunately, a similar breakdown for the sportfisheries doesn't exist. Therefore, bluefish were listed as a state responsibility since 88 percent of the commercial catch was taken inside of three miles. This isn't surprising, since the commercial catch is taken primarily by gill nets, haul seines, and pound nets. On the other hand, much, if not most of the sport catch is landed beyond the three mile zone.

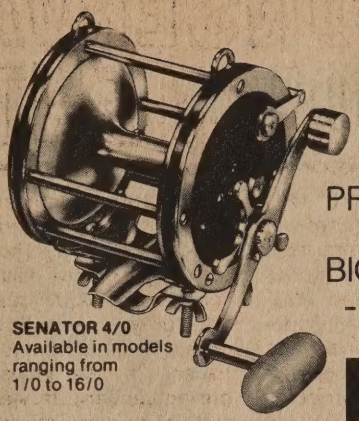
That's especially true in the New York Bight area, where most of the party boat catch is boated offshore.

If the figures we have to work with are any indication of the true situation, the commercial catch of bluefish can be almost discounted. The 10 year mean commercial catch runs about 1500 metric tons, while the estimate of the sport catch in 1974 was 58,074 tons! Despite this, the council turned down my request to include bluefish on the list of our responsibilities. The main reason given was "states rights." This despite the fact that the states have not done a damn thing about bluefish up to this point and probably don't have the resources to do the job even if they wanted to. Most of the members from the southern end of Council's jurisdiction talked of bluefish as if they were pests, showing little appreciation of the fact that bluefishing in the New York, New Jersey area has become rather spotty. A huge party and charterboat fleet has developed over the years and a good part of it depends on the bluefish for a living. Particularly in view of the apparent decline in striped bass, the maintenance of strong bluefish runs should be a prime council concern. Nevertheless, a motion, introduced by Jim Douglas (Va.) and seconded by Bill Pell (N.Y.) was passed to exclude the bluefish. Ironically, this same resolution included the American Shad, a fish caught almost exclusively in rivers—clearly a state responsibility!

The fight over the bluefish may not seem important at the moment, as the decline in its numbers isn't as severe as in the case of striped bass. On the other hand, I'm concerned about the philosophy that the only time to worry about a species is when it's in trouble. By that time it's often too late! I'm not sure at this point if any regulation of bluefish is necessary, but I'd certainly like to see council research funds go into this area. Due to the resolution, that seems unlikely at the present time. Among those voting, I received support on this issue from Bill Feinberg (N.J.), Lorry McHugh and Nancy Goell (N.Y.) and Gene Cronin (Md.). Your opinions about this matter would be appreciated.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has, rather belatedly, announced the public meetings to be held on the preliminary management plans for silver and red hake (whiting and ling), herring, mackerel, long and short finned squid, and "other finfish." The New Jersey meeting was held in Atlantic City on Nov. 22nd, probably drawing few people due to the late notice. The Long Island meeting is on Thursday, Dec. 2nd from 7 to 10 P.M. at the Holiday Inn, 4809 Nesconset Highway, Centereach. This is your chance to express an opinion on the specific management plans, or even on

(Continued on page 27.)



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The Long Island FISHERMAN FISHING TRIP CONTEST

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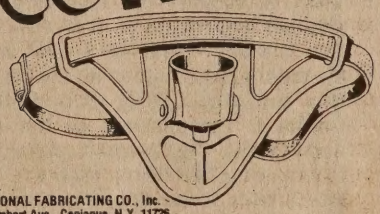

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Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf!!!

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

Tod Walter of Perak River was the winner of the Litter Box Contest. He has been sent a check for $10 and has chosen a fishing trip for 2 aboard the Viking Star.

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FREEPORT Aloma II

NORTH SHORE
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Betty W

Surf Side with John Fritz

LET THERE BE LIGHT

One item of significant importance in a surfman's gear which gives him more trouble than anything else is his neck light. Even if you are a fisherman who prides himself on being able to perform the normal chores of night fishing in darkness there comes a time when a task is impossible without the aid of artificial light.

Over the course of years there have been four different neck lights which I've tried. In the following lines I'll try to relate the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Type 1 is the JustRite headlight which is listed in the Surfcaster's catalogue for $6.75. It consists of a battery box containing four D batteries connected to the neck light with approximately 3 feet of cord. This is one of the most powerful of the neck light which has its obvious advantages under some conditions but is not necessary for routine knot tying and plug changing. The lens cover of the metal bulb case can be turned so that you can change the beam from a spot to a wide angle beam.

The battery case on the models I've used was subject to rust and corrosion since it was made of metal. The newer models are made with a plastic case which eliminates the rusting problem. Another advantage of this new plastic case is that it opens like a book whereas the older model opened on the end like a flip top box. This added feature facilitates the cleaning of the contact points when they become corroded.

The most annoying problem I have found with these lights is the contact points found on the plate in the bottom of the battery case. The weight of the batteries causes the brass contact points to lose their tension thereby allowing poor contact to be made between the bottom plate, the batteries and the contact points found in the cover. On occasion it was necessary to build up the bottom with aluminum foil to insure the proper contact on all points. Again the newer case should simplify this problem for the one fact that it opens like a book and is therefore easier to repair.

Naturally the battery case is kept inside your top away from the spray of the surf. The metal neck piece on the other hand is in an exposed position where it will come in direct contact from salt water, either from wet hands, spray or an occasional dunking. This piece should be cleaned after each outing where it gets wet, for trouble can be

encountered with the "on-off" switch located in the neck piece. At 3 o'clock in the morning I am not really in the mood to clean fish much less equipment. The next day in the bright sun, flashlights are forgotten until the next time you sneak out to fish a favored rip in the dark and you find the light inoperable.

Type #2 is the same style head light consisting of the battery case with remote neck light. The major differences in this light is that it has the battery case and also the light case made of high impact plastic. The battery case is designed to contain only three batteries which will cut down by one quarter on the expense and problem of maintaining fresh batteries for your power supply. Another added feature is that all exterior metal parts are made of stainless steel.

This light is listed in the Brookstone Catalog of Peterborough, New Hampshire for $5.95. The catalog does not use a name to describe this light, there is only the number K-2633.6 listed to identify the product.

This light seemed to resist corrosion much better.

A distinct disadvantage of this light is that the "on-off" switch is located on the battery case, unlike the JustRite which is readily available on the neck piece. This presents a problem when wearing a waterproof top and the battery case is buried in the pocket of your waders.

The third light we will cover is the Flex-Light which lists in the Surfcaster's catalog for $5.55. It is a lightweight ligh made of anodized aluminum requirin two AA batteries. This is the ligh chosen most often by the wet suit cla for with a few modifications can b rendered somewhat waterproof. Th candlepower is small but sufficient fo almost all needs you will be required t perform while fishing. It has a pen-lik clip on the side of the battery case whic allows you to clip it on your shirt insid your top with just the bendable neck an bulb section protruding under your chi This light is activated by turning th bulb case thereby eliminating fumblin around for an "on-off" switch.

In order to prevent corrosion of t bulb case a rubber O ring is inserted the case on the inside of the openi provided for the bulb. The joints whe the flex neck enters the battery and bu case can be sealed with tape or a suitab liquid sealer. Regular maintenance mu still be performed to prevent corrosion the delicate interior parts of this light.

Finally, the light I have come to us almost exclusively over the past year the new throw-a-way light found in mos stores today selling for about $2.0 There is no more maintenance o batteries that fail at the wrong tim although of course a new light will hav to be purchased from time to time. Thes lights will last for many outing depending of course on how often the ai of a light is needed.

Since the throw-a-way lights ar

rmally hand held you must attach a ap so that it can be carried around ır neck. This can be accomplished ily enough by simply taping a cloth ap of sufficient length, say 2 feet to case with vinyl electrical tape.

One disadvantage I found in using this nt is in trying to aim the beam on your k when you have both hands engaged. ind I have to stick the light in my uth in order to keep the beam aimed the right object.

So far the lights covered are those ed in plugging operations. If you end to do any bait fishing none of the rementioned lights are necessary but y are a useful part of your equipment. nile I have mixed feelings about using Coleman Lanterns, especially when water is calm, I do employ their use en fishing bottom on the south shore Long Island. I cannot discern any nificant relation between the amount fish caught by those using such a ght light and those not using the leman Lantern.

When wading into the shallows while ugging care must be exercised when ing the neck light, such as facing the oreline when the light is being used. hen fishing from the dry beach there e other considerations to be aware of. To begin with the rod is usually held in and spike not in your hand therefore it ust be clearly visible in order to detect a tell-tale pickup of your bait. Straining your eyes to see in the dark, even on a moonlit night, is impossible for any prolonged period of time.

When fishing two rods the problem is twice as difficult. Naturally if the fish slams the bait with a vengeance the rod will be taken unmistakenly down and the lightly set drag will send out it's beautiful song for all within hearing range to heed. This is not always the case as you well know. Those little bounces of your rod tip as the fish toys with the bait will be discerned more readily if you paint the tip of your rod with white paint. Better yet take some reflector tape and wrap the tip of the rod between your last guide and the tip. You will be surprised how much this will emphasize the rod tip in dim light.

Coleman Lanterns are available in two basic types. Those which are supplied with gas cylinders and those which must be refilled with liquid fuel. I have the liquid fuel type and find it satisfactory for my needs. A full tank will allow several hours of light and as long as you fill the tank before each outing you should not be left in the dark. The one gallon Coleman fuel cans last for many refills and sell for about $2.00.

The gas cylinder lantern are more expensive to operate and do not last as long as the gallon can of fuel. Of course when using the cylinder you do not have to carry around or store this highly flammable liquid.

When taking these lanterns to the beach it is a good idea to carry along an extra mantle. This fragile white ash can easily be broken rendering the lantern inoperable or the least cause the brightness of the light to be greatly diminished.

These lanterns, when operating properly give off such a strong light that I find it blinding. A shield can be fashioned out of a piece of sheet aluminum so that you can stand behind the lantern and not have the light shinning constantly in your face. If you want to be a real nice guy, curve the shield around the sides of the lantern and you'll not be blinding the fishermen of either side of you.

No matter how well equipped you are to see in the dark, the gradual lightening of the sky in the east is always a welcome sight. It signifies the end of a long and hopefully fruitfull night. Before long the sun will be high in the sky and you can head for home and that soft warm bed.

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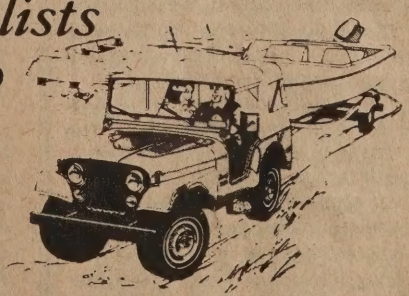

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

Advanced Codfishing Part II

Last week we discussed how an individual angler can have an edge over his fellow codfisherman by using a bait other than the traditional skimmer clam—whiting fry, herring, butterfish, whole squid, mackerel etc. This week we're going to discuss briefly where to find cod and how to rig up for them in detail.

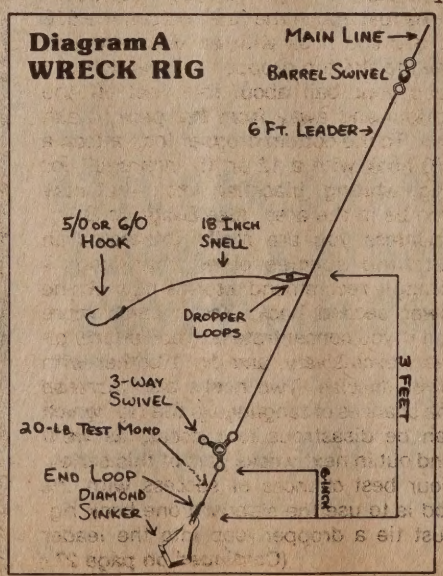
Although codfish are found in depths ranging from 60 feet to 1500 feet, the hook-and-line fisherman usually confines his fishing for cod in water not less than 60 feet or more than 110 or 120 feet. Basically, cod will congregate over three types of bottom formations: high-ground surrounded by deeper water, slopes at a change of depth, and wrecks. With the exception of deep-water wrecks, virtually hundreds of prime bottom formations for codfish can be located simply by studying a nautical chart for the area being fished. In any case, a good accurate compass and a depth recorder are essential equipment for successful codfishing.

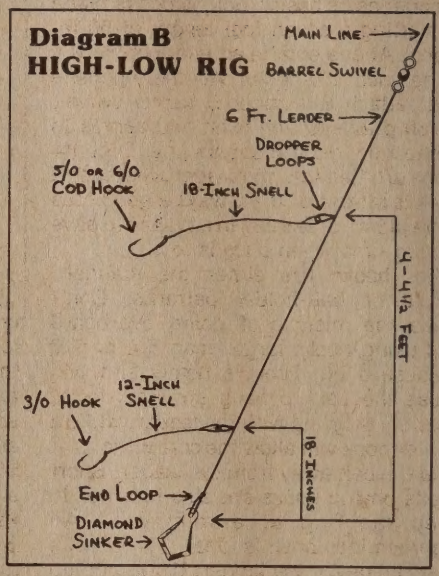
High ground where there is a small hill or ledge surrounded by deep water is a prime area for cod, which may be found on top of the formation, along its sloping sides or on the outskirts at various times. When fishing such a formation, start by anchoring over it's highest point, then work your way down its side with the changing depth until you are in the deeper water surrounding the formation. Popular high-ground areas for codfishing along the south shore of Long Island are the Cholera Banks, the Farms, Angler Banks, Southeast Grounds, Klondike Banks, McAllister Grounds, 17 Fathoms and the Subway Grounds. On the eastern end of the Island off Montauk are the Cartwright Grounds, Frisbees, Submarine Buoy, Southwest Ledge, Shark's Ledge Coxes Ledge and numerous others.

Many fishermen have the mistaken assumption that when they hear the phrase "fishing open bottom for cod" the fishing is being done over a flat debris-free bottom with a uniform depth, which isn't true. The key to fishing the "open bottom" for cod is changes in the depth. Look for slopes where the water gradually increases in depth five or ten feet, perhaps even coming up again to form a small gulley. Just cruise around running a straight course and watch for depth changes on your recorder, particularly around the 90 foot line.

Tackle for codfishing should be on the heavy side out of necessity, because of the depths being fished, heavy sinkers used, and the strong possibility of hooking up with a fish of 30, 40, 50 or more pounds. Somewhere along the road the cod received a reputation of being a poor fighter...perhaps from a die-hard bass fisherman that didn't want to get his cookies cold or have other fishermen discover the truth that all bass fishermen fear will be revealed, which is: A 30-LB. COD CAUGHT IN SHALLOW WATER WILL OUT-FIGHT ANY STRIPED BASS THAT EVER SWAM. As a rule, cod also get much bigger...the largest on record was six feet long and weighed 211 pounds, and fish in the 30 to 50 lb. class are not at all uncommon.

The rod used for codfishing should have a medium or heavy action and be at least 6 foot in length, ideally seven foot. The longer rod will aid in making short casts, which are necessary to get your line away from other anglers and prevents the rig from becoming tangled on the way to the bottom, which we will discuss further later on. The rod should be matched with a heavy duty reel that can take the pressure and has a high-speed retrieve ratio for bringing up a rig quickly when fishing in deep water. My personal choices are: the 3/0 112H or 4/0 113H Penn Senator, or the Penn 500M Jigmaster with its 4:1 retrieve ratio. Monofilament line ranging from 30 to 50 lb. test can be used, but I personally can't see any reason to use more than 30 lb. test for cod unless much of your fishing is done over wrecks. The heavier lines require more lead to keep on the bottom, which can be a distinct disadvantage when fishing the open bottom. If you don't have a fishing outfit that fits the requirements for codfishing, don't run out and blow a bundle buying one unless you can use the outfit more than two or three times a year. You can always rent a decent outfit on the open boat you are fishing on for a nominal fee of up to five dollars.





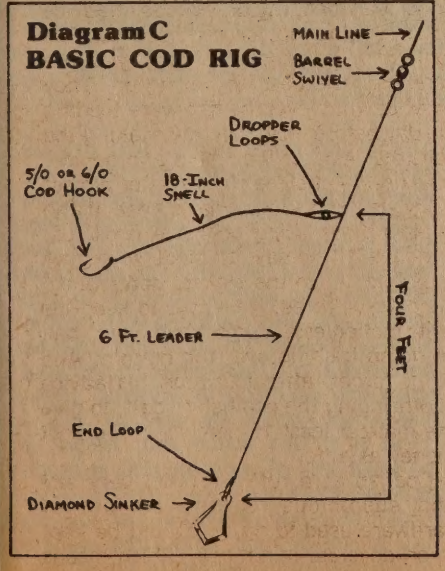
Rigging up for cod is quite simple, but nevertheless can be extremely important to success. But before we go into what rig to use when, my first words of advice about rigging up for cod are: ask the captain or mate of the boat you are fishing on the best way to rig up. They know at what level the fish were feeding the day before, how they were taking the bait, etc. Ask for their help and advice, then use it—they're on the water almost every day and know what's best. If the mate advises using only one hook, use only one...if he says to place your hook four feet above the sinker, don't put it only two or three. If he says to keep the bait motionless, don't have your bait doing an Irish jig over the bottom. And don't forget, after following his advice and bringing the poolfish to gaff, to give the mate at least 15 percent of the pool money as a tip.

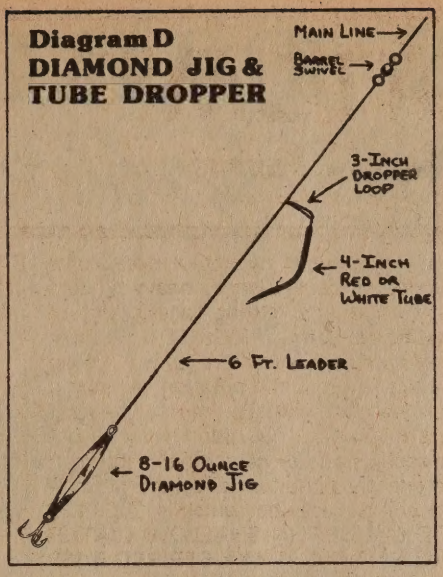
Codfish as a rule are often very shy and suspicious, so the amount of hardware used to rig up should be kept to an absolute minimum—which means

that if you are using more than a barrel swivel (or a 3-way swivel when wreck fishing) you're using too much. Forget about metal sinker-clips, pretty red beads, metal hook-holder-outers, etc. You're much better off using knots to connect the components of the rig: the dropper-loop, end-loop, and improved clinch knot. All rigs should be made with a leader as its basic trunk, which is made by cutting a seven foot length of 50 lb. mono. At one end tie an end loop with a three inch diameter. At the opposite end, attach a number 5 barrel swivel, which prevents line twist and serves to connect the rig to the main line. Dropper loops are tied into the leader wherever a hook is attached. It's always a good idea to tie plenty of leaders in advance to save fishing time when a rig is lost.

For hooks use either the standard sproat or bait-holder patterns. Don't make the mistake of going overboard and using hooks larger than 5/0 or 6/0 because a big hook is heavy and will cause the bait to hang straight down, possibly tangling with the leader, while a lighter hook will allow the current to hold the bait away from the leader. Short snells on the hooks are also in order to keep tangling at a minimum. An eighteen inch snell is ideal, 24 inches is okay but never any longer. If you pull up your rig to check the bait and find the hook snell wrapped around the leader like an eel, change to a hook with a shorter snell.

The first rig we are going to tie is for when the fishing is being done over a wreck or very rough bottom where an angler would expect to hang-up a rig on the bottom often. The first rule of thumb when wreck fishing is USE ONLY ONE HOOK. More than one will only increase the number of times you'll get hung up and possibly lose the rig. Take one of your pre-tied leaders and cut off the bottom two feet or so by the dropper loop, then attach this end to one eye of a three-way swivel. Then take a piece of twenty pound test mono and tie an end-loop at one end and attach it to another eye of the three-way swivel. Make the distance between the end loop and swivel about six inches. Attaching the sinker to the rig with a lighter line will allow you to break the line without losing the entire rig if the sinker gets hung up. To attach the hook, tie a dropper loop into the leader about three feet above the end loop. Pass the end loop of the hook-snell over the dropper loop, pass the hook through the center of the dropper loop and pull it out so that the two loops interlock. That's it. (See Diagram A.)





The second rig is for fishing over open bottom where other species such as ling and whiting are mixed in with the cod—the two-hook or "high-low" rig. Take the pre-tied leader and tie two dropper loops into it: the bottom dropper about eighteen inches above the dropper loop, and the "high" dropper loop about three feet above the first. Attach the 5/0 or 6/0 cod hook with an eighteen inch snell to the top dropper loop, which will keep your bait about four feet off the bottom and away from the pesky trash fish. To the bottom dropper loop attach a 3/0 hook with a 12 or 15 inch snell for ling, whiting, blackfish, etc., that may also be in the area. (See Diagram B.)

Unless you are really interested in catching species other than cod, I strongly recommend dispensing with the lower second hook. You'll catch more cod if you concentrate all your efforts on them exclusively, and don't bother with other species. Two hooks also increase the chances of tangling up the rig, which can be disastrous to success, as we'll find out in next weeks part of this series. Your best chances of success with the cod is to use the standard one hook rig. Just tie a dropper loop into the leader

(Continued on page 27.)

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WINTER PARTY BOATING

by Milt Rosko **Part II**

Terminal rigging for this type of fishing is rather standard along the coast. If codfish and pollack are your target you'll find a high-low rig, with a pair of hooks snelled to a piece of 50 lb. test mono, with one hook down near the bottom and a second hook 24 to 30 inches off bottom, works fine. The hook sizes should be tailored to the size of the fish being taken. A 5/0 or 6/0 Claw or Beak style hook is fine if the fish are averaging five to 10 pounds, but if there are heavyweights around move up to a 7/0 or 8/0. Remember that codfish have a rather leathery jaw, and it takes force to drive a point and barb into its jaw, so ensure your hook points are needle sharp. I always use a small file to work on even a brand new hook, so that the point will readily rip in as soon as I lift back to set the hook.

Keep a supply of heavy sinker weights with you when you step aboard the packets. Seldom will a lightweight sinker hold bottom, and ideally in this type of fishing your line should always be perpendicular with the bottom. I find eight to 16 ounces the ones I use most often, with bank style by far the most popular, as it is less apt to become fouled on a wreck or bottom.

In fishing for codfish and pollack, sea clams, popularly called skimmers, are the most popular bait and are provided by the party boat skipper as part of the regular fare. I've found that using half a clam as bait usually worked fine. I'm hesitant to use too large a bait, as I've found I hook more fish with a smaller bait.

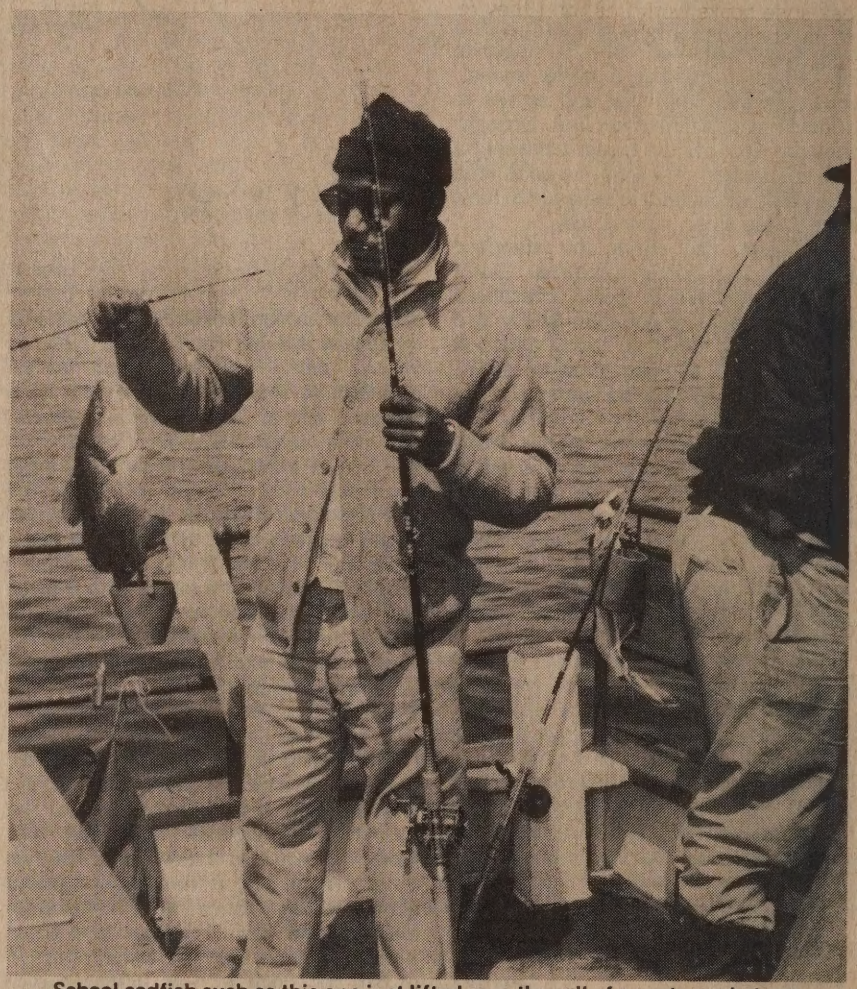
With both cod and pollack I find that hesitating a second striking enables the fish to get the bait well back into its mouth. To ensure quick penetration of the hook point I always leave the point and barb exposed, concealing as much of the rest of the hook in the bait as is possible.

Many party boat regulars will fillet a bergall and use it as bait, and I've also seen anglers gut a cod and remove crabs from the cod's stomach and use them as bait, carefully wraping them on the hook with elastic thread. Squid heads also account for many cod and pollack, as squid constitute a sizeable portion of their diet when these cephalopods are present in numbers.

There are two approaches when bottom fishing for cod and pollack: to keep your bait absolutely motionless on bottom, and to occasionally lift it, or work it. On some days, I've found one approach to work, and on other days the opposite. Keep alternating your approach until you find the combo that works best. Usually when the water is extremely cold the fish don't move as actively as early in the winter. When it's cold the dead bait method usually works best, and many have been the codfish that have been caught when an angler leaves his rod secured to the rail, goes inside for a cup of coffee and comes back to find that a cod has swallowed his bait.

When cod and pollack are actively feeding on sand eels and herring around wrecks, and ledges, you can often run up a great score by using a diamond jig. The popular jigs made by Ava and Bridgeport in sizes ranging from 4 to 16 ounces, when rigged with or two tube teasers rigged 12 to 36 inches ahead of them, make a potent combo when the fish are feeding on live bait. The jigs should be permitted to settle directly to the bottom, and then retrieved with a whip retrieve, causing the jig to dart towards the surface, and then falter, much like a struggling baitfish. In working these heavy jigs, you'll be pleased you're using a stiffish action rod, before it makes it less of a chore, and is much more effective.

With ling and whiting a high-low rig also proves popular, and some anglers go one step further and add a third hook.



School codfish such as this one just lifted over the rail of a party packet are fine eating. They respond to clam baits fished right on the bottom with most anglers using a pair of hooks on high-low rig.

This results in one low hook right at the sinker, a second hook about 18 to 24 inches above the sinker and another hook the same distance above the second. The bottom hook usually acconts for most of the ling while the two high hooks bring strikes from the whiting, which have a tendency to move off bottom as they search for a meal.

Size 1/0 or 2/0 long shanked Claw or Beak style hooks work fine, and they're usually snelled to a 18 inch long piece of leader material. Use sufficient sinker weight to hold bottom at all times. This is especially important when you're drifting. Here many anglers fail to use adequate weight, with the result that their baits are ballooning off bottom where they won't catch any fish.

A variety of baits may be used to entice strikes from whiting and ling. Fresh squid is usually supplied by the party boats, but clams will turn the trick also. Many anglers will fillet a fresh caught whiting and cut long, thin strips from the fillet and use it as bait. Cut the strips a half inch in width by four to five inches in length, so they flutter enticingly when drawn through the water. Strips of herring and mackerel also make fine baits.

I make it a practice to lift back smartly as soon as I feel a whiting or line take the bait. I also find it best to keep the bait moving, and do so by slowly lifting my rod tip and then dropping back, which causes the bait to lift off the bottom and then settle back enticingly.

When mackerel make their presence known they can be fished for using the same techniques I mentioned earlier as being popular with codfish and pollack over wrecks. The same diamond or Vike jig and teaser combination, using smaller jigs, usually one to four ounce models, and small tube teasers works great.

The mackerel are usually enticed from the depths with a small spread of ground mossbunker chum, and usually will move to a range of from 15 to 40 feet deep. Just work your jig and teaser combo in this strike zone and you'll often catch so many fish you'll be arm weary by day's end.

The same techniques you employ for winter flounders during the spring will work at this season of the year, for it is now that the flatfish are moving into coastal bays and rivers. During the late fall and right through a mild winter the flatfish are feeding actively in anticipation of extremely cold water. Once the temperature drops they bury themselves in the mud, and don't venture forth again until the waters warm in the spring.

A pair of long shanked Chestertown hooks on 12 inch long leaders and tied to a single leader has become the most popular of flounder rigs, having pretty much replaced the time honored spreader of another era. Sinkers in the one to 2 ounce range are usually more than adequate.

Party boat fishing for whiting has gained increased popularity in recent years. Many party boats sail at night, where in but a few hours time anglers can make a fine catch. Make certain to dress warm, and pick nights when little or no wind is predicted, ensuring a calm ocean and bearable fishing conditions.

Most party boats on which I have fished require you to purchase your sandworm or bloodworm baits in addition to the regular fare. This is done because of the extremely high cost of worms. They do, however, usually provide clams or mussels and include this bait as part of the regular fare.

I would suggest that you go equipped with a light popping or bay rod as standard equipment if your target is early winter flounders from a party boat. The outfit described earlier for ocean party boat fishing is too overpowering for the winter flatties.

Most of the winter party boats sail daily at 8 A.M. and return to dockside around four in the afternoon. On weekends look for them to sail an hour or two earlier. It's best to check your current issue of The Fisherman for sailing times, and plan to arrive a half hour before sailing time so you can be settled aboard when it comes time to sail.

During recent years there has been increased popularity in night whiting fishing from party boats. The night boats sail around 7:30 P.M. and return to dockside shortly after midnight. During the height of the whiting run it only takes a couple of hours to wind up with a full bag of the tasty frostfish.

An extremely important consideration when winter flounder fishing aboard the packets is that you dress warmly. I always wear insulated underwear, followed by a loose fitting pair of trousers and shirt, followed by a sweat shirt with a hood, and then a heavy jacket. If necessary I put on a suit of foul weather gear to break the wind and help me retain body heat. I always wear insulated boots, as if your feet are warm it's easy to keep warm. On wet decks it's very easy to get wet feet, so make certain you wear some kind of boot.

Gloves are a must too, for if there's a bit of wind your wet hands will get cold quickly. I always keep an old towel tied to the rail, and dry my hands as quickly as possible, and then slip them back into woolen gloves that have a plastic exterior. Lots of anglers wear ski-type mittens. Whatever your choice, make certain to protect your hands from the cold.

The winter species we discussed are among the tastiest fish in the sea. The big cod may be steaked or filleted, while many people prefer to bake the smaller cod whole. Ditto with pollack. Whiting are usually prepared whole, while ling are best filleted. If you have a large catch you'll find some fisheries will exchange your fresh whiting for smoked whiting, a delicate treat, usually working on a 50-50 basis.

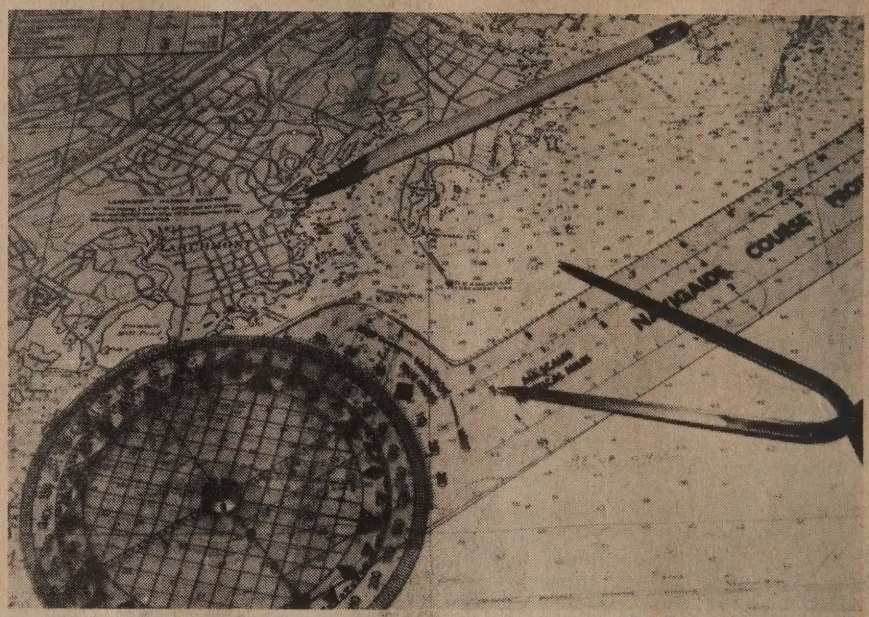
All of the winter species are firm bodied fish, which keep very well when frozen. The only exception is the mackerel, which is best used promptly, or smoked. While a bit oilier than most species, the mackerel when smoked is delicious.

When strong winds are predicted, stay home. It's foolish to sail on a rough ocean during winter, for you simply won't enjoy yourself.

In the weeks ahead should you get fidgety from working around the house on weekends, or tire of watching T.V., you just might consider a trip aboard a coastal party boat. It'll be a welcome change of pace, and if the weather is moderate you'll not only spend an enjoyable day on the water, but enjoy catching many fine bottom feeders that will be a welcome treat on your dinner table.

WINTER CLEANUP

by James Conn



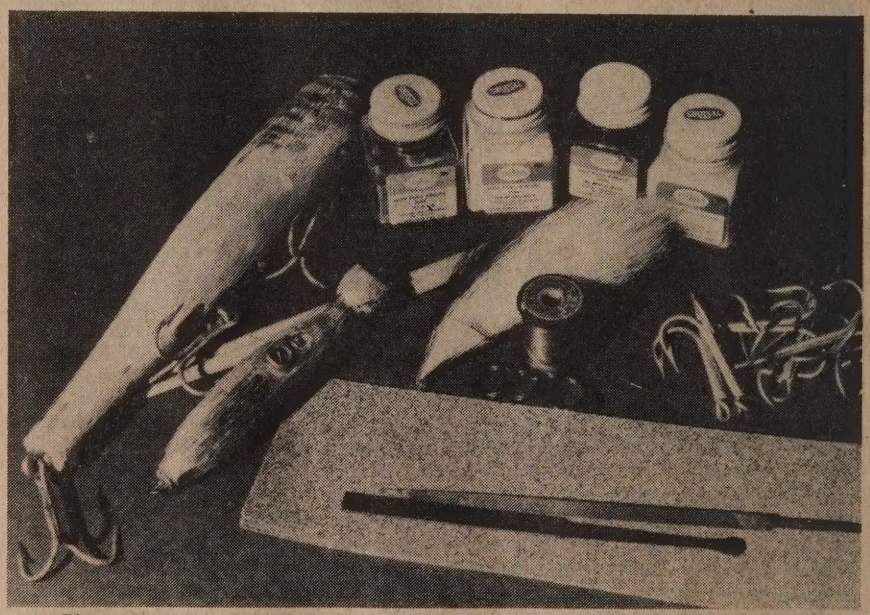
Take a look at your charts and plot your courses to favorite fishing spots.

It's winter again and most of us can't wait until spring when we can once again wet our lines. But until spring, those of us who aren't hunters have to find something to occupy ourselves with. Since actual fishing is out for a lot of us, the best thing to do is to start planning for those spring, summer and fall fishing trips you'll be going on.

To start with, take a look at your fishing tackle. Note what need be repaired such as lures, rods and reels. Don't be cheap about spending money in repairing your tackle or you may end up losing a prize fish. Check the line on your reels; if the line has been exposed to the sun for any long period of time it could be weakened. A sign that shows this would be a slight discoloration of the line. Line that has too much springiness in it can be straightened in the summer when your boat is back in the water. Just let all of the line out behind the boat while at cruising speed. Be careful of the angle that the line is released at or it could mean a fouled prop. Reels should be checked to be sure they are in perfect mechanical operating order. If the reel needs more than just a simple lubrication, and you don't know the first thing about repairing reels, don't touch it. Send it to an authorized service store. Reels are delicate, and should only be serviced by someone who knows what they are doing.

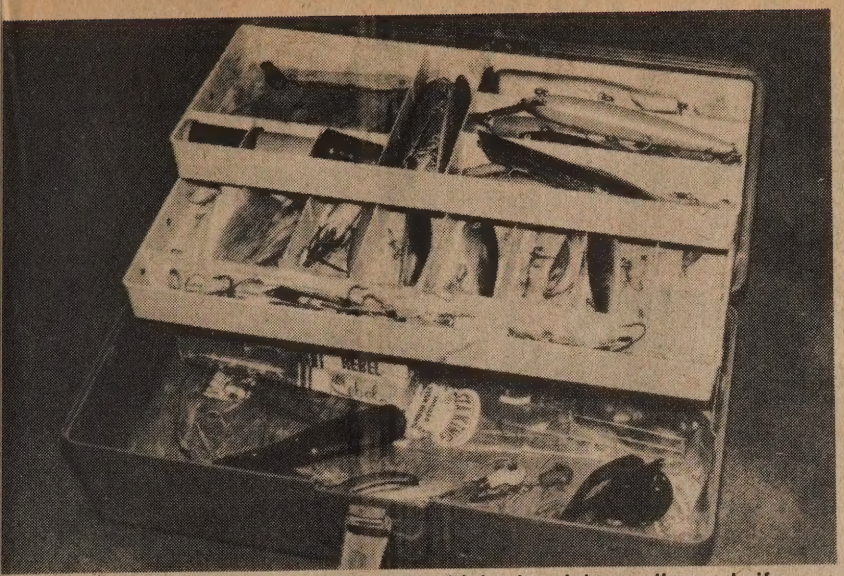
What about that favorite rod of yours? Inspect it carefully. If any guides or wrappings are worn, replace them. Chances are your rod wouldn't make it through another season. Replacing guides or re-wrapping the rod and guides can be done easily by yourself. Of course a lot of patience is involved if you want to do a halfway decent job. All you need to wrap the guides on a rod is some nylon thread, varnish, and a small paint brush. First strip all the guides and thread off the rod. (If the guides are in good condition, then they need not be replaced.)

Now, you're ready to wrap the guides on the rod. Do this very carefully, making sure that the guides are in line with each other. You can also wrap extra thread down by the butt, but this is optional and strictly for appearance. After all the wrappings are on the rod, give the whole rod a few coats of varnish to ensure the wrappings from coming unwound. If you take your time when wrapping a rod, all your efforts will have been worth the time spent because your rod will look better and it will perform better. The next thing to repair if need be are your plugs and lures. Take off old rusty hooks and swivels, and get rid of them. Buying replacement hooks in large quantities saves you a lot of money. If you can't tie a proper bucktail, and there are no tackle shops in your area that sell them already tied, don't worry about it. Many plugs work just as well without a bucktail.

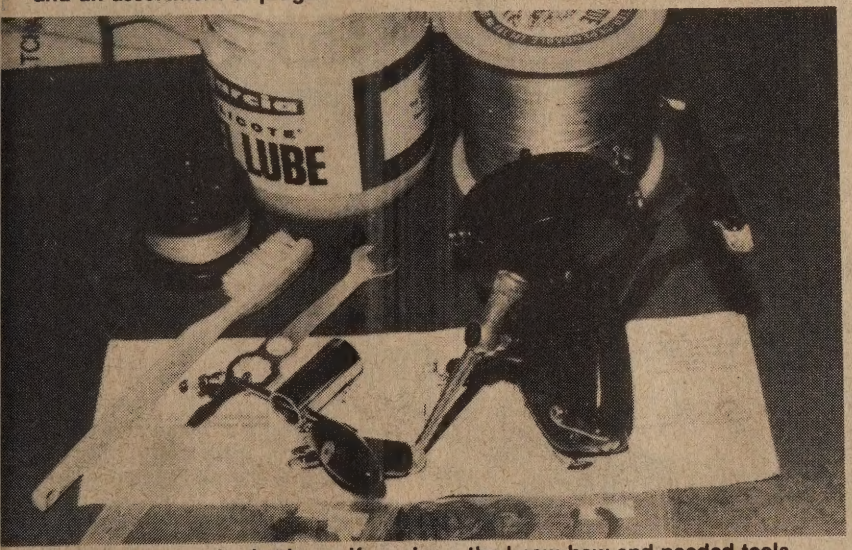


Plugs can be restored to health with a little airplane dope, new hooks and a new bucktail dressing.

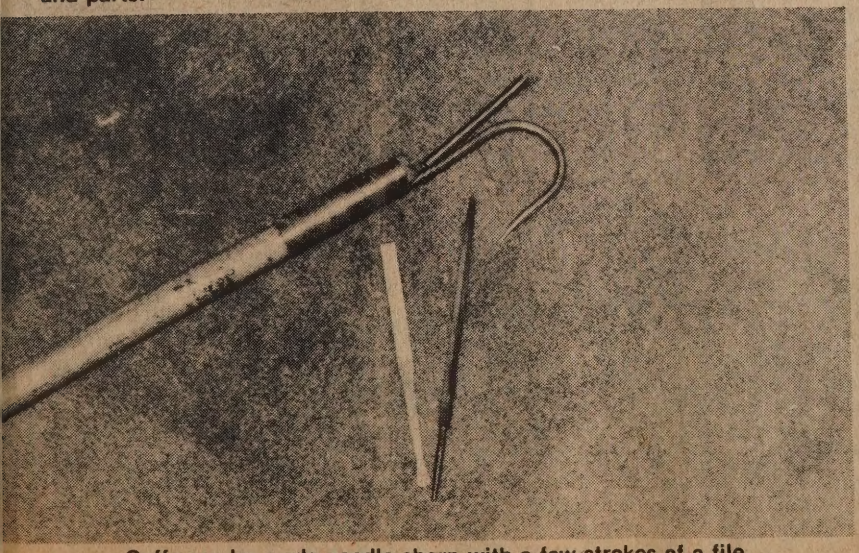
Those of you that have tooth-scarred wooden plugs can easily restore your expensive artificials to health by sanding down the body of the plug and removing all paint. Then repaint the plug with model airplane dope. The color can be of your choice and dope can be purchased at most hobby stores. Once you are satisfied with your repaint, give it a coat of clear dope to keep the colored dope from peeling. Remember these things and your fishing tackle should stay in good condition.



Be sure your tackle box is well stocked with hooks, sinkers, pliers, a knife and an assortment of plugs.



Reels can be repaired at home if you have the know-how and needed tools and parts.



Gaffs can be made needle sharp with a few strokes of a file.

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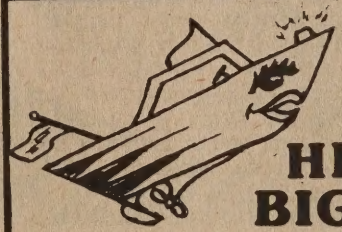

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THE POPULAR PORGY

BY FRED GUARDINEER

PORGIES, ALSO CALLED SCUP, ARRIVE IN MAY AND DEPART IN SEPTEMBER. THEY ARE ABUNDANT GAMEY SCRAPPERS ON LIGHT TACKLE AND EASILY CAUGHT BY INSHORE FISHERMEN DURING THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER. THE YEARLY COMMERCIAL CATCH IS ABOUT 30 MILLION POUNDS.

OCEAN PORGIES ARE THE LARGE SPAWNERS CAUGHT INSHORE DURING JUNE. AFTER SPAWNING THEY MOVE OUT AND SUMMER ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF.

PORGIES RANGE FROM MAINE TO SOUTH CAROLINA, AVERAGE 1-2 LBS., REPORTED TO 5 LBS. WINTER IN 500 FT. OCEAN DEPTHS.

SAND PORGIES ARE SMALLER EDITIONS OF THE SAME FISH-STAY IN THE BAYS ALL SUMMER.

ALL PORGIES ARE BOTTOM FEEDERS, BITING ON SKIMMER CLAMS, HARD CLAMS, SQUID, WORMS, SHRIMP, CRUSTACEANS - AND THEY TRAVEL IN SCHOOLS.

TACKLE IS USUALLY A LIGHT TO MEDIUM BOAT ROD, SMALL HOOKS AND SINKER ENOUGH TO HOLD BOTTOM. DOUBLE AND TRIPLE HEADERS ARE COMMON.

3 FT.

HI-HOOK FOR WEAKFISH WHEN THEY RUN TOGETHER IN THE SPRING.

3-4 FT.

PAIR OF NO. 1 OR 1-0 CARLYLE OR O'SHAUGHNESSY HOOKS.

4 OZ. SINKER

TO CLEAN A MESS OF PORGIES INVEST IN A PAIR OF LINED RUBBER DISHPAN WASHING GLOVES AS PROTECTION FROM ALL THOSE SHARP SPINES, ESPECIALLY IF YOU SCALE THEM.

SCALES WILL FLY ALL OVER - UNLESS DONE UNDER WATER IN PAN.

AFTER SCALING, BEHEADING AND GUTTING THE CATCH - LIKE ON YOUR BOAT OR AT THE DOCK, PORGIES WILL FILLET LIKE A BANANA AFTER STIFFENING OVERNIGHT IN YOUR PRIVATE SPECIAL FISH AND BAIT REFRIGERATOR.

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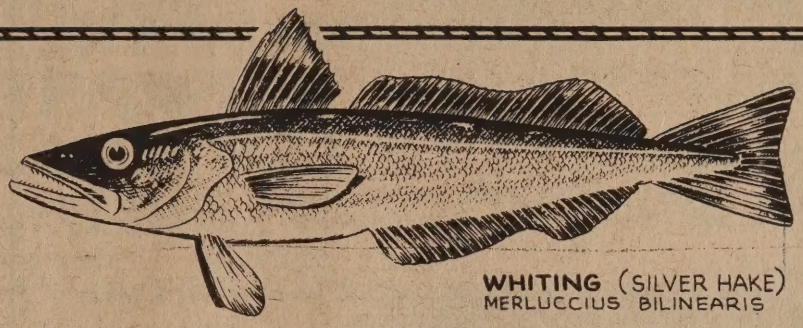
DISCARD BONY RIB SECTION. PORGIES ALSO GOOD EATING COOKED WHOLE. EVERY PORGY FAN TO HIS OWN TASTE!

Fish Talk
with Dr. W.A. Muller

WHITING
Merluccius bilinearis



WHITING (SILVER HAKE)
MERLUCCIUS BILINEARIS

WHITING, or silver hake, or frost fish, or more accurately *Merluccius bilinearis* are a often sought after species along the northeast coast.

THERE WAS A TIME when boatmen and surf fishermen were equally familiar with this small, but often feisty gamefish. Each winter the hordes of frost fish invade the inshore grounds chasing small baitfish, mostly spearing.

OLDTIMERS talk about walking along the surf line at night during a cold spell and picking up the whiting that stranded themselves on the beach during their eating orgies.

BOATMEN fished for them deliberately even in relatively shallow bays and harbors. Of course, since these fish average only about one pound, there was always the chance for a big bass in early winter and hefty cod or pollack later on.

DEEP SEA PARTY BOATS continue to catch quite a few of these tasty critters, but the forays against the beach have become fewer and fewer. Even pier fishermen say that they don't catch them with the same regularity that they did on several decades ago.

A LOOK AT THE COMMERCIAL CATCH record reveals that the abundance of the species has waned. The cycle of abundance seems to be about 10 to 15 years. In the 1920's and 1930's the average commercial catch was about 4 million pounds. The size of the commercial landings jumped to an average of about 12 million pounds during the early 1940's, but then declined to about 4 million pounds again in the mid 1950's. The size of the catch increased again during the early 1960's but has once again declined. Some anglers and fisheries biologists believe that the large landings of foreign fleets has kept the population size down for a period that exceeds 15 years. Perhaps the 200 mile limit regulations will help these fish to a renewed abundance.

Whiting are long, thin and streamlined from the head back. The tail is almost pointed and the fins relatively soft. There is a prominant lateral line that runs from the gill cover to the tail.

THE FISH ARE rather dark on the dorsal side but grade to silver and white towards the belly. The extreme taper of the body and the gleaming belly in the light of a cold winter moon are extremely striking characteristics.

BUT THAT HEAD just doesn't seem to go with the rest of the body. It is broad and long. The mouth is large and so are the eyes. But these items account for their success as predators. The light gathering capacity of the eyes permits them to follow the movements of small baits at night and they can inhale baits that are a substantial portion of their own body length. This last bit is important to a predator that sports a maximum weight of three to four pounds or thereabouts. This is especially true if you sometimes compete with bigger fish for the same food supply. Cod, ling, pollack, big blackfish, striped bass, tiderunner weaks, and even an occasional bluefish have all been known to share the same water with whiting.

THE WHITING HAD WELL BETTER KEEP HIS WITS about him when feeding on packed schools of bait, least one of these larger predators decides to make an easy meal out of a couple of whiting rather than chase around for hours after spearing and other smaller prey.

THE AVERAGE SIZE OF WHITING is about one to one and a half pounds and they average about 12 to 18 inches. Curiously, the males average twelve to fourteen inches while the females are larger, 13 to 18 inches.

THE ANALYSIS OF STOMACH CONTENTS OF 201 whiting taken in the Mud Hole (New York Bight) during February, March, April and May 1958 showed that 39.26 percent of the diet of these fish is made up of invertebrates such as amphipods, small crabs, shrimp, squid and worms. Vertebrates (fish) such as spearing, anchovies, other smaller whiting, small blackfish and menhaden make up 60.70 percent by volume of their diet.

WHITING THAT WERE SAMPLED CLOSE TO THE BEACH apparently rely more heavily upon small baitfish than invertebrates. Crustacea, squid and worms accounted for only 9.45 percent by volume of the food found in their stomachs. On the other hand the baitfish made up 90.55 percent of their diets. Spearing alone accounted for 23.37 percent of this total.

WHITING HAVE THEIR PARASITES TOO. Apparently, a certain species of tapeworm belonging either to the group *Tetrarhyncha or Trypanorhyncha* is the most commonly occuring parasite.

ANGLERS SEEKING WHITING ON THE OFFSHORE grounds use typical bottom rigs and usually bait with squid if whiting are the target. Still, some specimens are taken by accident while fishing for other bottom dwellers such as cod, ling or pollack. They have a large mouth so that even kingsize hooks have some effectiveness. However, fishermen looking for whiting prefer to use number 2 or 3 Carlisle hooks when the whiting are small. These youngsters are known as pencil whiting in some areas. When the adults are expected, a number 1 or 1/0 is preferred.

MULTIPLE HOOK RIGS are the rule on party boats and from fishing piers alike. The hooks are usually spaced from immediately above the sinker to three or more feet above the bottom. Thus, bottom cruising whiting and ling can be taken as well as those whiting that chase the bait towards the surface.

WHEN THE WHITING ARE CHASING SPEARING in the shallows, bank, pier and surf fishermen have found that small (3 to 5½ inch) floating swimming plugs work great on whiting. They improve the sport too since light spinning rods can dominate and because the fish can fight better without the weight of the sinker below the hook.

INCIDENTALLY, THE NICKNAME "FROSTFISH" is a result of the experiences of surf fishermen who have found them in the wash on cold clear early winter nights. With a winter wind coming off the land (usually northwest) the surf becomes clear and calm. The whiting corner the baitfish right up against the beach. At times the whiting chase the bait inshore too far and a receding wave can leave them high and dry. The cold wind may freeze them where they flopped. Result "frostfish."

L.I.F. Film & Slide Show

The Long Island Fisherman has prepared three slide shows and film presentations on fishing that will be shown to fishing clubs on request. If your club wishes to see one of the shows, please have a club officer fill out the form below and return it to The Fisherman no later than dec. 15th. You will be notified by phone if a show can be arranged.

Shows may be scheduled anytime during December through March. It is understood that any show will be allowed to be presented at the beginning of the club's meeting **before** regular club business is taken care of. Only one show per club.

Salt Marshes & the Future of Our Fisheries
Includes 17 minute, 16 mm color film. Film sequences include Montauk fishing and Southampton Estuaries. Film followed with lecture by Dr. William A. Muller.

Striped Bass
Slide show lecture and question and answer session by Dr. W. A. Muller on fishing techniques and ecological problems.

Getting To Know the Weakfish
Slide show lecture includes techniques, locations and experiences of Dr. William A. Muller.

Name of Club .....

Mailing Address .....

Show Requested .....

Alternate Date .....

Est. number of members to attend. .....

Name of Officer .....

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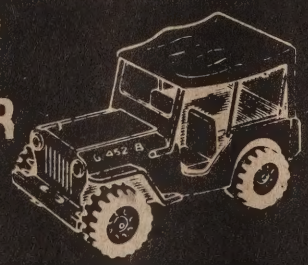

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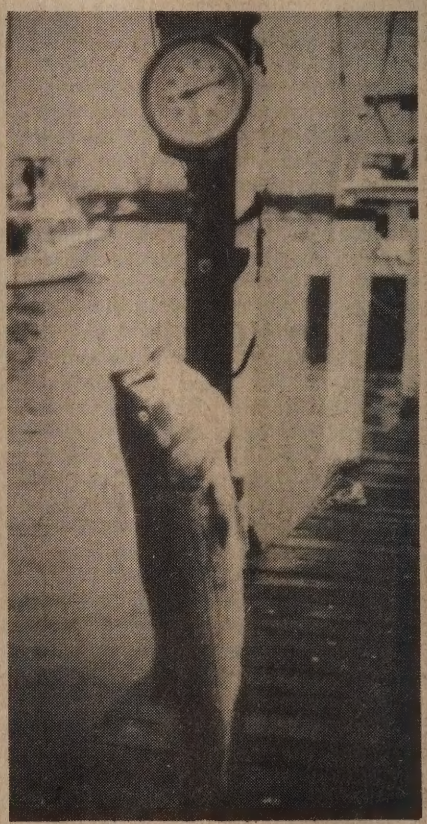
SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Brad Glas of the **Helen II** reported that on Sunday they had a few cod to 30 pounds which were taken at Cartwright. Also some small pollack, and plenty of big blackfish were taken. Whiting, ling, and hake were right outside the harbor at bell buoy. Open dates available for the **Helen II** are Dece. 12th and 19th, which are both Sundays. There are weekdays in between still available.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** told us of plenty of big blacks up to 12 pounds taken at Cartwfight. Sunday, though, it was tough fishing because of the big swells. Hi-hook was around 20-25 blacks. A few cod were mixed in of 10 to 12 pounds using green crabs for bait. There are dates available for charter



Capt. Bob Killey, Jr., Mark Morose and Thomas Huliky aboard the "Twilight" took 48 bass with a total weight over 600 lbs. The smallest fish weighed about 15 lbs. and the largest weighed 60 lbs. even. The fish were all taken on October 5th, under the lighthouse on white feathers.

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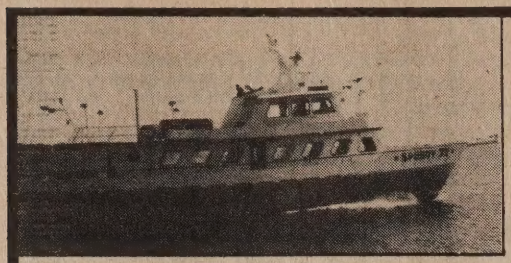
Ralph Kruse proudly displays his 2nd 43 lb. bass taken from the surf at South Hampton. Subscriber Club Photo.

after the 1st of the year.

Captain Les Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported fishing only fair with mixed bags taken on the Suffolk Wreck on Friday. Quite a few cod but nothing of big size. No cod on Coxes Ledge. They had a good mixed bag on Saturday consisting of sea bass, cod, flounder, ling and whiting at Cartwright and Block Island. More cod are around Southwest Ledge. Night whiting 7 P.M. on Saturday was very good at Bell Buoy in 70 feet of water which is a five minute ride with 4 hours of fishing. The December 15th Wreck Trip is cancelled. Watch for special wreck trip upcoming.

CAPTREE



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I.G.F.A. APPROVED LOCAL RECORD. Patricia Beck took the record with this 12 lb. weakfish she caught on 12 lb test line. Photo courtesy of Charlie's Bait and Tackle, Lindenhurst.

CAPTREE

Captain Neil of the **Lady Ann** reported that they took codfish north of the NB buoy in 100 feet of water. This fishing was poor, with only a few cod taken. They also took 400 whiting and ling with the whiting up to 4 pounds. The per man average was ½ of a 5 gallon pail. Dogfish were out further. Still baits are best for this type of fishing.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported to us that the cod during the week were poor to fair. Sunday saw 15 fish from 20 to 35 pounds with loads and loads of whiting. About 400-500 to be more precise. The wrecks were still dead for big blackfish. Cod are chashing whiting on open bottom from 90 to 100 ft. With it's two new engines, the **Capt. Scotty** is nice and quiet and has gained speed.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reports that their best catch of the week was made on Friday when they took 23 cod and plenty of whiting and ling. Saturday, they had 4 cod and Sunday the same. Still generally poor with no improvement seen. Should be picking up shortly when the water temperature gets down nearer to the 45 degree mark. The wrecks are dead. There are signs of fish moving around, mostly smaller fish of 7 to 8 pounds which are beginning to move inshore. Last year the first decent run of fish was from Dec. 7th to the 10th.

BABYLON

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells us that on Saturday Ralph Garusona took 20 flounder up to 1 pound 9 ounces east of the bridge on the flats. All fish were keepers and Ralph stirred up the bottom and chummed with corn. He said the fish were burried in the jud. 8 codfish were

the reward for angler Dick Warkin on his "Wan-Chris", fishing the NB Buoy on Friday. Fish were in the 18 to 20 lb. class. Additional flounder catches were made by those working the bays.

LINDENHURST

Duke's Bait and Tackle tells us that the flounder fishing has picked up dramatically over the past weekend, particularly in the State Channel and the Amityville Cut area. One angler had 60 flounder on Saturday morning and there were other good catches made also on worms and clam. Of course chumming and stirring up the bottom helped. Good quantities of whiting and ling in 80 to 90 feet of water southeast and southwest of Fire Island Inlet. Some cod are being caught at Cholera and South/southeast of the inlet in the 95-110 ft. range, fish in the 20-30 lb. category. Good white perch fishing at the Nissequogue River and the river at Sunken Meadow State Park. Striped bass at the Northport Lilco Power Plant on artificials and on worms. These are schoolies from 2 to 8 pounds.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports flounder fishing is good with 40 taken by one of his customers by the Amityville cut on worms. Chumming and stirring up the bottom of course is important and Lon says good sized flounders are scattered all over the bay. A few cod here and there on the open and private boats with whiting and ling filling in the spaces.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine informs us that Al Seimeca on his boat "Big Foot" fished 100 ft of water to the west of the inlet and took roughly 1 dozen fish on Sunday averaging 20 to 30 pounds with the big fish hitting 40 pounds on the nose. Further proof that there are big cod out there to gobble up a bait. These fish were found on Al's chart recorder before he made the effort.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells us that there was good flounder fishing from the skiffs that went out of his station over the weekend and they came back with up to 25 good sized flounder per boat, though the anglers admitted that they had to work hard for the fish and move around many times and stir up the bottom and throw the corn. The "Mar Jon" had 12 cod on Thanksgiving.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie of the **Starstream II** reports that whiting and ling fishing is very good with fish in the 3 lb. area being taken in Ambrose Channel. They aren't getting many cod at this time but were coming up with big Boston mackerel to make a good mixed bag.

Capt. Spider Schmidt of the **Aloma II** tells us that on Saturday his customers loaded up with bags and bags of whiting and all went home very happy and very tired. On Sunday the **Aloma II** did very good with mixed bags of ling and whiting.

The Capt. Al reports that he is catching cod at the Cholera Banks and that it is improving as the season progresses. The quantity is not there as yet but the quality is with most of the cod weighing up to 40 pounds. He is also picking mixed bags of whiting, ling and mackerel.

Bob at **Hook-Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle** tells us that Sy of the Freeport Tuna Club bagged some cod in 90' of water southeast of the tower on Sunday and that John Antignano took 2 codfish in 100 feet of water fishing southeast of the tower on Sunday, the smallest fish being 12 pounds. Flounders are spotty all over the bay and lots of ling and

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whiting anywhere from 60 to 100 feet of water.

Capt. Sy of the **Bluefin II** called to say that on Saturday he fished in 100 feet of water to the southeast and took whiting in the morning and some cod in the afternoon up to 22 pounds. High hook and the pool winner was Jack Sleeks of New Hyde Park, a member of the Ramble In Fishing Club. On Sunday Sy had the Hudson Bay Fishing Club out in the same area. High Hook and pool fish was a 31½ lb. cod taken by Randy of the club.

POINT LOOKOUT

The Marie III called in that on Sunday the Seaford Fire Dept. had a beautiful day both in weather and fishing. The 13 man charter went to Cholera Banks and brought 14 cod up to 25 pounds over the rail. They also took lots of blacks of 2 pounds and up until the bergalls moved in and then started drifting and loaded up with whiting and ling averaging 2-3 pounds.

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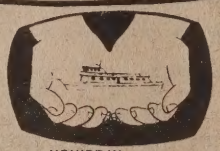

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Seth Kananick, Steve Silver and Alice Silver with 25 school bass taken aboard the Kim on Lupo umbrella rigs.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports that flounder fishing is still doing good in the Reynold's Channel area and are doing best in the deeper parts of the creeks off that channel. The pier fishermen are doing good off the Jones Beach Pier and even better off the Magnolia pier in Long Beach. All flounder are averaging 1-1¼ pounds and are being taken on worms or skimmer clams.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The New Eagle reports that whiting fishing is excellent both day and nights. On Friday his customers went home with bags of fish consisting mostly of whiting. The fishing during the day is done at the Ambrose—Scotland Light area and the captain is sailing 6 P.M. nights on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday to the Turner Buoy and is doing very well.

Capt. Tom of the **Pilot II** is making his customers happy with very good catches of whiting and ling.

The **Flamingo II** reports that the whiting fishing is fantastic. Capt. Walter is fishing the Ambrose—Scotland area and says that the fishing couldn't be better and went further to say that this was the "kind of fishing the old timers talk about."

Captain Tony of the **Big Mohawk II** called to say that his charter on Friday loaded up, literally, on ling and whiting. On Saturday Tony had 8 cod for 5 men, fish running from 12 to 28 pounds. On Sunday fourteen cod were taken running from 14 to 32 pounds. Note that these are all good sized fish and they are full of herring and mackerel. Some mackerel are also being taken on the boat and a few doggies. Tony is fishing in 105 feet of water to the southeast around the HA buoy. It has come to our attention that foreign trawlers have been seen this past week working roughly 8 or 9 miles off the Shinnecock and Moriches beaches, which is probably a large contributing factor to the only so-so codfishing at present.

Father and Son Fishing Team. Father Bud Lanning (left) and son Ken Lanning with their striped bass of 54 ½ and 50 lbs. respectively taken off Lido Beach and Tobay trolling Lupo bunker spoons aboard the "fish Hawk" out of Wantagh. Both fish were weighed in at Lon Wansers Tackle, Seaford. Subscriber Club Photo.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

PORT JEFFERSON

Rich at **Port Jefferson** said he hadn't heard that much about fishing last week. Last Friday's nice weather brought out some flounder fishermen but results weren't known. There's probably some small schoolies being taken at the power plant but information is hard to come by because not that many people have been out trying. Looking back on 1976, Rich said the fluke fishing was the only highlight. The rest of the species were way below catches recorded during previous years.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said the flounders are still active around Sand City and Ashroken. All of the fishing is being done from shore as boats are out of the water until the spring. Those bass off Eaton's Neck which we reported to you last week are gone. There's probably some stragglers still around but the main body of fish has probably migrated westward. With the hunting season and

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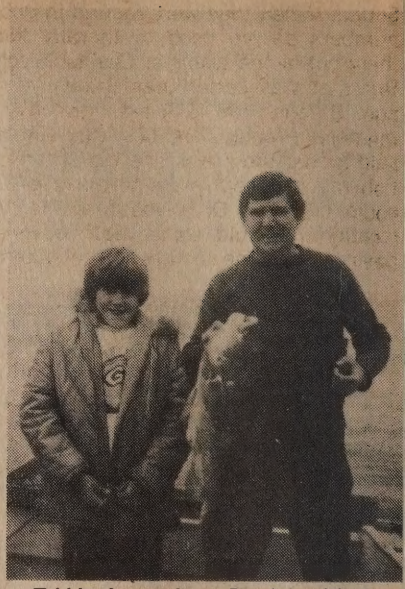


Ed Hanley and son Patrick with the largest of 75 blackfish, a 14 pounder. Also taken were 4 bass to 27 lbs. and 3 blues to 17 lbs, all taken while fishing aboard the "Gotcha" out of Orient by the Sea Marina. Subscriber Club Photo.

Thanksgiving taking up a lot o sportsmen's time, not many report were available from the power plant. Bu this is the time of year when th remnants of the bass and blue congregate in the out-water outflow Best lure for this winter fishing is the ½ to ¾ ounce Tri-Fin Whiptail. As interes in the power plant fishing picks up, we' keep you informed as reports becom available.

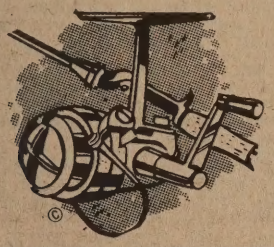
HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready Flee** called to say that this coming Sunday 12/5 will be his boat's last trip for th season and he will concentrate on black and flounder.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported som flounders and tom cods in Eastcheste Bay. No great quantities of fish are bein caught but there's still enough around t keep some people interested. No bas around at all. And there's been peopl out plugging and floating worms, so it' not like nobody's been out looking Butterfish are showing up by the pie near the site of the new public school o the east side of the Island. Som flounders are in the same spot. Las Friday one fellow came into the shop t report whiting taken off the town dock i New Rochelle. That's right, near th dock where the **Klondike IV** ties up. It' been a long time since whiting showe up in force in the western end of th

Sound. When they were around in good numbers people used to literally kick them out of the water at Casino Beach. But that was better than fifteen years ago. Bluefish for 1976 are now only a memory. Probably the best that can be said is that there was one big school of fish moving from place to place every coule of days. Once the blues left a location it would sometimes be three days before some one would locate them.



CONSERVATION COMMENTS

(Continued from page 7.)

the general philosophy to be followed in producing such plans. It's most important that we have a good turnout of sportsmen, in order to impress the Service with the importance of keeping sportfishing interests in mind.

The Mid-Atlantic Council will also be meeting at the same location, from about 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. the same day. The meeting is open to the public and once again, all are invited. What the councils do, or don't do, is going to have a great effect on your future fisheries. Take this opportunity to come out and see what's going on.

ADVANCED CODFISHING

(Continued from page 11.)

about four feet above the end loop for the sinker and you're in business. (See Diagram C.)

The last rig we are going to tie is the "Diamond Jig with Tube Dropper," which can be deadly on both cod and pollack, particularly when drifting. (See Photo D.) Use a diamond shaped jig or Vike Jig made by Bridgeport in sizes ranging from eight to sixteen ounces. This is attached to the end loop of the pre-tied leader. Then tie a dropper loop into the leader about three feet above the diamond jig, but tie it so that the diameter of the loop is at least three inches. A small red or white tube from an umbrella rig is then attached to the dropper loop. The whole idea is to make it appear that a small fish (such as a whiting) is chasing a smaller fish (such as a sandeel) which often triggers the competitive spirit of an otherwise disinterested codfish. More often than not, a cod or pollack will strike the tube simply to prevent the other fish from getting it first. More about this little-used rig and how to use it next week.

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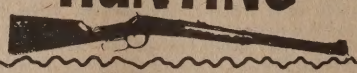

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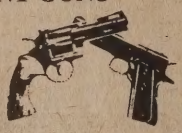

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	4:27	4:49	5:30	5:45	5:13	5:32	6:16	6:59	8:42	9:09	7:55	8:23	4:19	4:38	12/2
FRI.	5:15	5:36	6:12	6:28	5:58	6:19	6:53	7:20	9:24	9:53	8:41	9:08	5:04	5:24	12/3
SAT.	5:57	6:19	6:49	7:08	6:40	7:01	7:31	7:57	10:02	10:33	9:24	9:49	5:47	6:07	12/4
SUN.	6:35	6:58	7:29	7:45	7:18	7:41	8:06	8:36	10:32	10:05	10:04	10:31	6:28	6:49	12/5
MON.	7:13	7:37	8:06	8:23	7:55	8:19	8:42	9:13	10:49	11:23	10:43	11:11	7:09	7:30	12/6
TUE.	7:49	8:15	8:42	9:00	8:31	8:57	9:16	9:53	11:10	11:38	11:23	11:49	7:50	8:11	12/7
WED.	8:24	8:54	9:18	9:38	9:03	9:36	9:53	10:23	11:40	—	—	12:01	8:30	8:52	12/8
THUR.	9:01	9:34	9:56	10:18	9:39	10:16	10:32	11:12	12:10	12:19	12:29	12:42	9:11	9:35	12/9

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 12
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

12/6	7:13	4:29
12/11	7:18	4:28
12/16	7:22	4:29
12/21	7:25	4:31
12/26	7:27	4:34

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
12/21	12/28	12/6	12/14

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	12:50	7:10	1:20	7:45
FRI.	1:20	8:00	2:00	8:25
SAT.	2:10	8:45	2:40	9:05
SUN.	2:55	9:25	3:20	9:50
MON.	3:35	10:10	4:05	10:35
TUES.	4:20	11:00	4:50	11:25
WED.	5:10	11:50	5:40	—
THURS.	6:00	12:25	6:35	12:45

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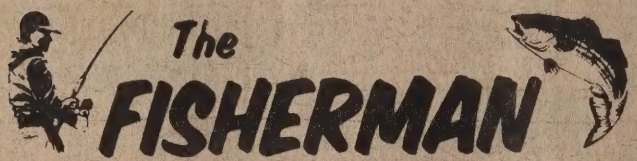

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